

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 91-508-C - ORDER NO. 91-999 ✓
NOVEMBER 1, 1991

IN RE: Petition of Stellar Cellular General)
Partnership and Metro Mobile CTS of) ORDER
Lancaster for the transfer of authority) GRANTING
to provide Cellular Radio Telecommuni-) TRANSFER OF
cations Services to the public in) AUTHORITY
South Carolina Rural Service Area No. 9.)

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the Commission) by way of a Petition filed on October 10, 1991, by Stellar Cellular General Partnership ("Stellar") and Metro Mobile CTS of Lancaster, Inc. ("Metro Mobile/Lancaster") requesting the Commission's authorization to assign Stellar's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity ("CPCN") as to South Carolina Rural Service Area No. 9 to Metro Mobile/Lancaster. The Petition was filed pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. §58-11-140 (1976).

The matter was duly noticed to the public, and no intervention was received by the Commission. The Commission Staff and the Petitioners stipulated to the prefiled testimony submitted on behalf of the Petitioners.

Jack Plating, Regional Vice-President for Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. provided testimony regarding the Applicant and its relationship to the Metro Mobile subsidiaries involved in this

proceeding, the nature of the services it seeks to provide in Rural Service Area ("RSA") No. 9, the manner in which those services will be provided, and the ability of Applicant to provide a high quality service in a reliable manner.

The Applicant, Stellar Cellular General Partnership, is a New York general partnership which is authorized to do business in the State of South Carolina and holds a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") to construct and operate a domestic public cellular radio telecommunications system in South Carolina Rural Service Area ("RSA") No. 9, which consists of Lancaster and York Counties. Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Metro Mobile CTS, Inc. Metro Mobile CTS, Inc. is also the parent of three (3) other corporate subsidiaries which are the managing and general partners of the non-wireline carriers certificated by the Commission to operate cellular systems in the Greenville-Spartanburg MSA, the Anderson MSA, the Columbia MSA and South Carolina RSA No. 1. Metro Mobile subsidiaries have been constructing, managing and operating cellular systems pursuant to Commission authorization since 1985. Thus, Metro Mobile, through its subsidiaries, has developed a substantial amount of expertise in the operation, construction and management of cellular systems. Stellar has entered into an agreement with Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. to have Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. construct, manage and operate the cellular system in RSA No. 9. Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. is required to obtain all necessary regulatory

approvals under the agreement.

The agreement requires that Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. supervise construction of the proposed system, manage the business affairs of the proposed system, maintain and operate the proposed system's equipment and hardware, market the service, perform all billing and collection functions, and coordinate operation of the system with other Metro Mobile subsidiaries in the adjoining Cellular Geographic Service Areas ("CGSAs"). Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc. will be compensated based upon the performance of the system. The service proposed will be a domestic cellular radio telecommunications service in South Carolina RSA No. 9, which consists of Lancaster and York Counties.

Pursuant to written agreements, Applicant will utilize switches owned by Metro Mobile CTS of Charlotte, Inc. Applicant's switch use arrangements are similar to those approved by this Commission for the cellular systems operated by Metro Mobile subsidiaries in both the Anderson MSA, the South Carolina RSA No. 1, and South Carolina RSA No. 3.

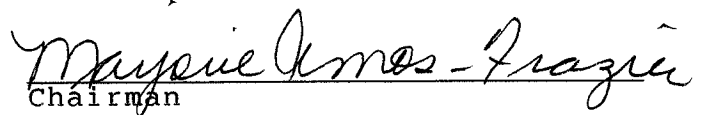
In awarding the non-wireline cellular authorization for RSA No. 9, the FCC specifically determined that the Applicant is financially qualified under its rules and regulations to construct and operate the proposed system and provide cellular services. In addition to the Applicant's demonstrated financial standing, the Commission is aware of the status of Metro Mobile in the cellular industry in general, and in particular that of its subsidiaries operating the systems in South Carolina.

RSA No. 9, which consists of Lancaster and York Counties, is bordered by the Charlotte MSA to the north. Metro Mobile/Charlotte, an affiliate of Metro Mobile, which is managed and operated by a sister subsidiary of Metro Mobile CTS of the Southeast, Inc.; and this subsidiary will handle the switching for the proposed system. As a result, economies of scale can be realized by employing common switches and a coordinated management, accounting and marketing structure, all of which are already in place, to provide service to RSA No. 9. The capabilities presently existing in the Charlotte MSA, together with the facilities proposed in this Application, will be sufficient to provide RSA No. 9 with non-wireline cellular service on a continuous basis between the Charlotte MSA and RSA No. 9.

Based on the stipulation of the testimony and the Application filed in this matter, the Commission finds that it is in the public interest to approve the assignment of Stellar's Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to provide domestic public cellular radio telecommunications in RSA No. 9 to Metro Mobile CTS of Lancaster, Inc. As requested in the Application, Metro

Mobile/Lancaster will be allowed to charge the rates of the tariff previously approved in Order No. 91-732, issued in Docket No. 91-365-C for Stellar Cellular General Partnership.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:


Chairman

ATTEST:


Executive Director

(SEAL)